



## FOX 59 REPORT: "Con Air"

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Terre Haute -- In the distance, a Boeing 727, bearing a non-descript logo, cut through the haze to settle on the runway of an Indiana airport. As the airliner taxied to a stop, it was surrounded by a perimeter heavily armed men and women, most in bullet-proof vests, toting assault rifles. "Con Air" had arrived with a passenger list full of the worst criminals in America.

The Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) is the U.S. Marshals Service's highly secured transportation system. Every day, a fleet of planes and ground vehicles move 1,000 prisoners across the country in a synchronized transfer between county jails, federal prisons and courthouses. Killers, rapists, terrorists and robbers deemed too dangerous to transport any other way find themselves a seat on "Con Air", enduring transcontinental flights in hand cuffs and leg shackles.

"We have a very sophisticated airline system in place that travels, on average, between 40 and 50 cities every single week," said Supervising Deputy U.S. Marshal Jason Wojdylo, standing on the tarmac of an Indiana airport as the roar of Con Air's engines echoed in the distance. "On an annual basis, we may move close to 300,000 prisoners throughout the system."

On this morning, an accused killer on the run to Alaska was returning home to stand trial in Shelbyville. The Shelby County Sheriff's Department couldn't afford bring Nathan Dalton back. JPATS did it for roughly a quarter of the cost.

"The main reason this will help us out is the financial aspect of it," said Sgt. David Tilford, as he waited in a Shelby County Sheriff's car for Dalton to step off the plane. "This will cost us several thousand dollars less than what it would've cost us to send a couple officers to Anchorage ourselves to pick him up."

Indiana is a regular stop on the JPATS system as prisoners are transported weekly in and out of the Federal Penitentiary at Terre Haute. Con Air operates through more than 40 North American cities and also transfers military prisoners and aliens deported overseas.

Next week, on Fox 59 Report, viewers will watch as U.S. Marshals track down fugitives on the streets of Indianapolis.

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